

Some Critics Still Oppose

Rafferty Backs Revised Edition of New Textbook

By GEORGE W. NEILL
Education News Service

California has not heard the last of "Land of the Free," the controversial American history textbook scheduled to enter the state's eighth grade classrooms in September.

Despite three revisions and the State Curriculum Commission's final acceptance of all corrections in mid-January, opposition from right-wing extremist groups continues.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Max Rafferty, who has joined the Commission and the State Board of Education in supporting the text, says the opponents are still fighting the first version, which has ceased to exist.

BUT MANY of the critics are ignoring Rafferty's opinion. They are continuing efforts to pressure and frighten local school boards into banning the book from their classrooms.

One school board, Downey Unified, has refused to permit use of the text by teachers and students and urged similar action by other boards.

The Bakersfield City Schools District urged the state to reject it, but will use it now that it has been adopted. Pasadena and Arcadia have sought legal opinion on whether they have to use it or not.

Meanwhile, 450,000 copies of the heavily edited text will soon be rolling off the presses. By the end of the summer they will be delivered to every public school in the state with eighth grade classes.

THE NEXT confrontation will come at the local level. What happens when school boards refuse to use the state-supplied books?

Rafferty, who has consulted with the Attorney General's office, says state law requires that all eighth grade classes in the public schools must use the book and failure to do so is a misdemeanor. An earlier opinion by the Los Angeles County counsel disagrees.

RAFFERTY, perplexed by charges that the book is pro-communist, says "it contains some of the most scathing de-

nunciations of communism I have ever read.

"We should not allow objections to the book in its original form to block approval of the revised version," he advised the Curriculum Commission. "It gives a fair picture of Negroes in American history — and it is one of the first texts to do so."

The committee of three eminent historians, which reviewed the book at the request of the State Board of Education, is beyond reproach, Rafferty continued. Education, is beyond revisions and Franklin Publications of Pasadena, the publisher, has been most cooperative in making them.

"I BELIEVE the Commission has done everything humanly possible to get a textbook that will be a credit to California," Rafferty asserted.

Ray Risser, a member of the Pasadena Junior College Board of Trustees, disagrees sharply with Rafferty. "Land of the Free," he claimed at the Commission's January meeting, overemphasizes negative aspects of American

history and downgrades the positive.

Another critic told the Commission she believed "it promotes the United Nations." Commission members assured her it simply reports what the U. N. is and does, information no text worthy of the name could avoid.

Harry M. McPherson, Commission member from Napa, said he was one of the most critical Commissioners toward the book when it was first presented, but "I now support the revised version."

"THE WHITE heat that centers on everything we do in book selection is a very good thing for California," McPherson said. "It results in better books by forcing attention on needed revisions."

Another Commission member, D. Russell Parks of Fullerton, pointed out that "Land of the Free" is just one of numerous books adopted by the state for use in eighth grade history. Let's get this in perspective," he said.

Savings Bond Swindle Revived, Sheriff Says

Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess today warned Los Angeles County residents of a revival of the old illegal chain letter scheme.

The "March of Bonds" ruse, a variety of the chain letter swindle with a patriotic pitch, preys on senior citizens and others who often have a limited income, the sheriff said. Rather than requiring cash, the victim is induced to make a purchase of U. S. Savings Bonds in the name of the person whose name appears on the top of his "sucker list."

The theory of the scheme is that the purchase of just two \$25 Savings Bonds plus \$37.50 for a 10-name list, you will receive 1,024 bonds worth \$25,600 in 7 years and 9 months, Pitchess explained.

A quick mathematical calculation shows that it would require in excess of 530 million participants to sustain such an operation for just 30 days, he declared.

In issuing his warning Pitchess said, "This same scheme we introduced locally in 1962, however, we were able to alert the public and stop the 'get rich quick' plan before too many local residents were victimized."

SAMUEL SHEETS, president of the Pasadena branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, told the Commission that "this book deals with the positive aspects of the Negro in America. It should help Negro students to avoid feeling racial inferiority and it should help white students to see the positive side of the Negro."

The Commissioners agreed and added that the book is one of the most interestingly written history texts ever adopted by the state.

This year's state budget contains \$1 million for the book.

Whether or not this state investment is fully utilized through effective use of the book in all school districts may well be decided in the courts — or in the broader forum of public opinion.

Coliseum Committee Appointed

Formation of a new International Committee of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission has been announced by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, commission president.

Pierre Salinger has been appointed chairman of the committee. "Mr. Salinger knows personally the heads of state of most nations and he has an international reputation in diplomacy," Hahn said.

Salinger, who recently was seated on the Coliseum Commission as representative of the State of California, is a former Press Secretary to President John F. Kennedy and President Lyndon B. Johnson. He is now vice president of Continental Airlines.

Hahn also named Supervisor Ernest Debs, representing the county, and A. E. England, representing the city, to the committee.

The purpose of the committee will be to expand the already-established program of international sporting events at the Coliseum and Sports Arena, and to promote new programs, Hahn said.

Adult School Classes Set

Two parent education classes have been scheduled during the spring semester at Victoria Park, 19101 Towne Ave., Gardena. The Gardena Adult School will direct the classes.

Both classes, open to mothers with pre-school children at least 30 months of age, will meet from 9 a.m. until noon. Registration will be held Feb. 7 and 8 at 9 a.m.

Knot Tying Subject for Coast Guard

Marlinspike seamanship—knot tying to the uninitiated—will be the subject of a discussion and demonstration at a meeting of Flotilla 48 of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary next week.

The no host meeting will be held Friday, Feb. 10, at the Dominguez Golf Course Clubhouse, 19800 S. Main St.

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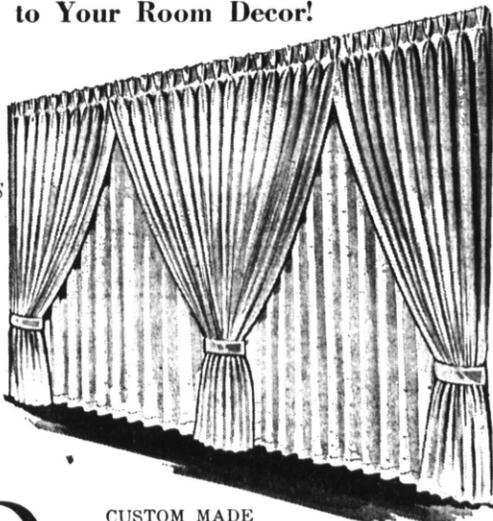
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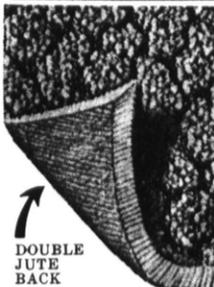
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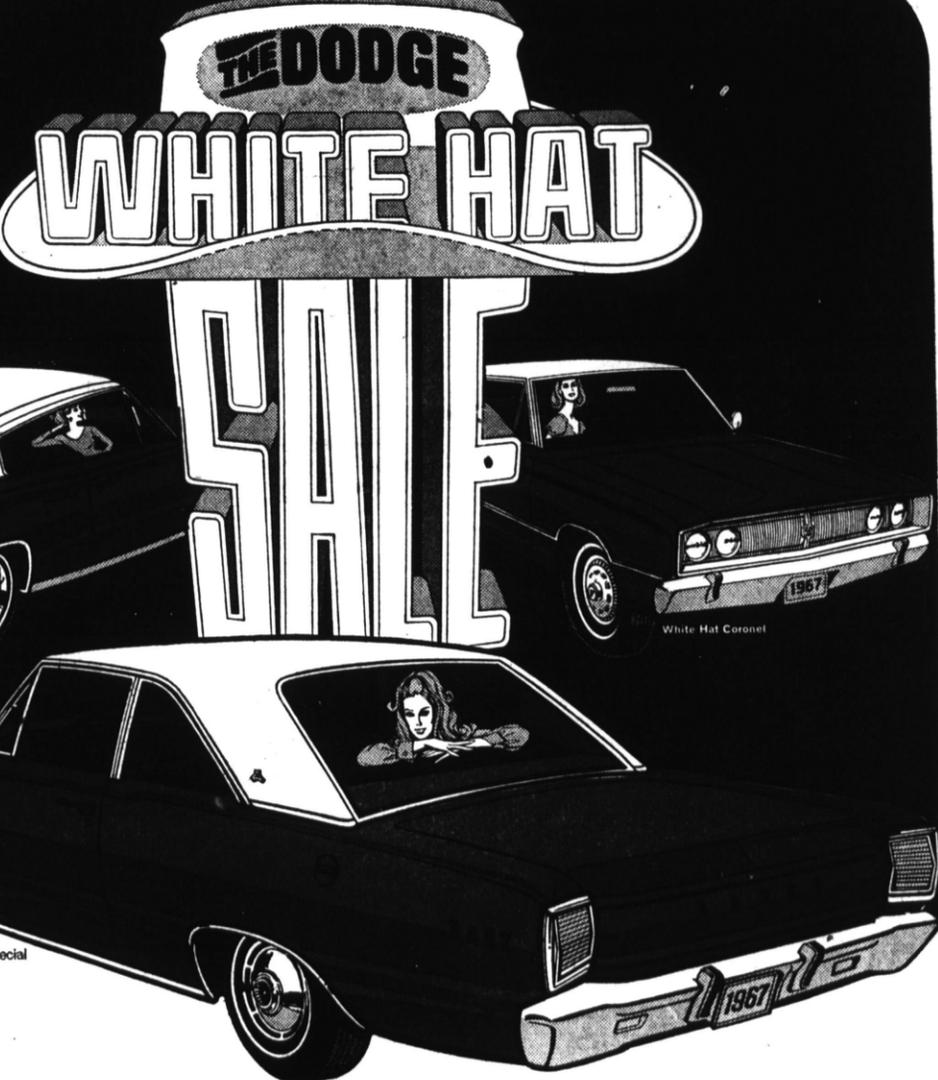
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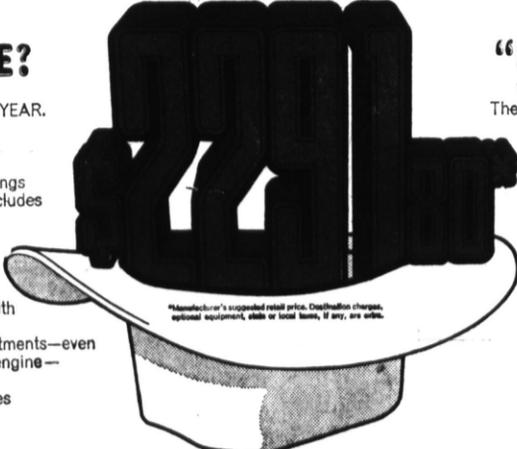
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